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A Kalamazoo Valley Community College Publication
February 2018

KalamazooVALLEY community college

TOP REASONS
STUDENTS CHOOSE KALAMAZOO VALLEY

Research suggests that over the past 50 years, one in three Kalamazoo area households has included a former or current Kalamazoo Valley student. These alumni are not shy about sharing their reasons for choosing Valley, 47% plan to obtain an associate degree or certificate and about 40% plan to transfer to a four-year college or university. While the remaining identify as life-long learners.

Those with the goal of completing a two-year degree continue to find well-paying careers as dental hygienists, respiratory therapists, and jobs in the culinary arts, industrial engineering, HVAC and computer programming and in other fields. In general, students can step immediately from Kalamazoo Valley to the work force and make a sizable income.

Transfer students find the rigorous curriculum, personalized services, favorable faculty to student ratio and affordable tuition help them get a "head start" compared to students who do not attend Kalamazoo Valley first.

A top 10 list of reasons to attend the college follows, do any of these thoughts sound familiar to you or someone in your family?

- Kalamazoo Valley graduates go on to do great things; our graduates help to make the region's economy run. From auto mechanics and nurses to elected governmental officials and teachers, Valley graduates are everywhere.

Carrie Lynn Pillars-Gerhard, a 1994 dental hygiene graduate from Kalamazoo said, "I am thankful for the great education I received 22 years ago. Shortly after graduation, I was hired in my field and I still love my job, my coworkers, and my patients."

- Students are choosing Valley because of the quality in-demand programs that prepare them for real jobs. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, over an adult's working life, graduates with an associate degree will earn approximately $500,000 more than those with a high school diploma only.

- Students can find their way at Valley. Many students do not have a clear goal when enrolling in college. Degree offerings are now organized within Career and Academic Pathways encouraging an even tighter connection between an "undecided" student and the resources needed to find an academic fit for life-long goals.

- Life-long friendships are formed at Kalamazoo Valley; from athletics, clubs and honors programs, these opportunities complement academic pursuits and contribute to a real sense of community and belonging.

- Students can now earn a four-year degree without leaving Valley's campus. Through innovative partnerships with accredited universities, the college's University Center is helping students find flexible paths to a bachelor's degree.

- In cooperation with Kalamazoo RESA and K-12 partners, the Early College program allows high school students to earn up to an associate degree for little or no cost while attending high school. This option is proving to be a popular choice for students and their families, currently there are more than 450 students enrolled in this program.

- Maybe you have said it and it is something that college faculty and staff hear frequently. The faculty at Kalamazoo Valley are second to none. Many graduates credit their life success to the quality instruction and personal relationships formed while at Valley. Classes at the college average a 1:23 faculty to student ratio, which is a big part of what makes this choice attractive to so many.

"I loved my experience at the college before I transferred. Kalamazoo Valley took good care of me," said Kalamazoo native Lisa Anne Plasick-Hodges, a 1992 graduate.

- Kalamazoo Valley's streamlined process helps students make good decisions about seeking financial aid. According to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, about 42 million Americans have accumulated $1.3 trillion in student debt and one in four borrowers is behind in their payments.

- More than 44% of Kalamazoo Valley students receive financial aid and more than $23 million was allocated to assist student learning last year alone.

- Keeping tuition affordable has always been a priority at Kalamazoo Valley. When compared to a four-year university, private college or for-profit certificate program, completing a degree or certificate at Valley is one of the best investments of a lifetime.

"My training at Kalamazoo Valley and the classes I took in the CIS department such as Network Security - Novell Netware, along with my CIS internship with the City of Portage, prepared me for my various roles at Bronson," said Matt Karel of Portage.

From the beginning, Kalamazoo Valley Community College has been clearly focused on student success. Throughout the entire organization - from those who provide student tours and those keeping college facilities in top shape, to faculty members totally focused on teaching and those who provide support services, proudly grouped under the Student Success Services banner, student success is Kalamazoo Valley's measure of success.

Anxious to share your reasons for choosing Kalamazoo Valley? Contact Alumni + Coordinator Denise Thomas at dthomas1@kvcc.edu. To update your contact information visit www.kvcc.edu/alumni/updatecontact.html.

EXPLORE FUTURE CAREERS
AT KALAMAZOO VALLEY SUMMER CAMPS

Do have you a creative middle schooler at home? Someone who likes to draw, write stories, or take photographs? Or perhaps someone who is curious about the world around them, fascinated by the stars, or is good at math? How about someone who likes to cook, grow their own vegetables or entertain family and friends?

If so, put their creativity and imagination to work at Kalamazoo Valley Community College's Early College Explore Future Careers Summer Camps. Careers in graphic design, astronomy and culinary arts are just some of the fields that will be explored during the week-long camps that take campers to all four of the college's campuses.

The camps, said Dr. Deborah Coates, dean of instruction, Early College, are designed to introduce area middle school students to different careers through skill-building activities and one-on-one interaction with faculty who are experts in their field.

"Keeping children engaged and learning over the summer months can be challenging," Coates said. "The Explore Future Careers Summer Camps offer students the opportunity to learn about a variety of careers through fun activities on a college campus."

Campers will be introduced to animation at the Center for New Media, create a "farm to fork" meal at the Food Innovation Center and Culinary and Allied Health Building, use robotics at the college's Groves Center, go behind the scenes at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum and enjoy swimming (Thursday) and scavenger hunts at the Texas Township Campus.

Camp is open to boys and girls entering 6th, 7th, and 8th grade (2018-2019 school year) and is limited to 24 campers per session.

The camp is $125 per week per camper (scholarships are available) and will be offered:

June 18-21	8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.
June 25-28	8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.
July 16-19	8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.
July 23-26	8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.
August 6-9	8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.
August 13-16	8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Campers report Monday, Wednesday and Thursday at 8 a.m. to Room 128C in Anna Whitten Hall on the Arcadia Commons Campus at 303 North Rose Street. On Tuesday, campers should report to the college's Food Innovation Center at 224 East Crosstown Parkway. Camp ends each day at 3 p.m. Campers should be picked up at Anna Whitten Hall. Transportation to the different camp locations, lunch and snacks are provided by the college.

Online registration opens Feb. 15. To register visit: www.kvcc.edu/earlycollege/camp.

For scholarship information or any other questions, contact Coates at 269.488.4509 or dcoates@kvcc.edu.

Students explore science at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum

NEW CULINARY DIRECTOR
SETS HIGH EXPECTATIONS

Brian Hay said he feels "like a kid in a candy store" because he gets to serve as Kalamazoo Valley's Director for Culinary Education. Hay assumed the role in January and every day he discovers something new to spur his enthusiasm. "I'm in awe of what we have here," he said of the Culinary and Allied Health building. "The school is amazing and the faculty is top notch."

Hay is a Toronto native who earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Canada before pursuing his master's degree from Purdue University. Most recently, he served as the director of the Culinary and Wine Institute at the University of South Carolina. He also taught culinary arts in Austin, Texas.

Hay is currently working to gain accreditation for the college's culinary program through the American Culinary Federation (ACF). The self-study portion of the process was recently completed and is awaiting a site visit from the organization at the end of March. ACF accreditation assures that the college is following the standards set by the governing body for chefs in the U.S. and that students in the culinary program are being taught a solid foundation. "This assures that our students are being taught a higher level of competency and skills," Hay explained.

With more than 20 years in the culinary industry, Hay has noticed a disconcerting trend. "Fewer people know how to cook - so our graduates should always have job security," he said with a bit of humor. "A lot of people didn't grow up with parents who cooked so they don't know how to cook either."

Those who do cook on average know just 30 recipes so Hay plans to expand course offerings for the general public. Simple, healthy meals will be featured. By next fall, Hay plans to offer hands-on cooking classes for the community, utilizing the culinary theater. Some three or four-course dinner theater offerings are also being planned, along with farm-to-table dinners and pop-up dinners. "We're just getting our feet wet," Hay said. "There are a lot of new classes that are coming."

Fresh, healthy options are also being featured in the student-run 418 Restaurant and the Havirmill Café, both located in the Culinary and Allied Health building at 418 E. Walnut Street in downtown Kalamazoo.

Brian Hay, new culinary director

"The restaurants provide a good opportunity for us to showcase what our students can do and what fresh food is," Hay said. Each week, culinary students prepare foods at the Havirmill Café based on an international theme. There are ready-made items as well as a hot bar and short order options. Hours are 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The 418 Restaurant is available for a fine dining experience, Monday through Thursday, 6 to 7 p.m. A three-course meal is $21 with wine and beer at an additional cost. Reservations are encouraged. Call 269.548.3200 to make a reservation.

Hay emphasized the restaurant and café are truly culinary classrooms. "It's a working environment, a learning environment and our job is to get it perfect. Our students have a really good chance to achieve perfection here," he said.

Visit the Havirmill Cafe and 418 Restaurant for delicious student-made meals.

www.kvcc.edu/dining

HAVIRMILL CAFE

Monday - Friday | 7:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
No reservations required

418 FOUR•ONE•EIGHT

Monday - Thursday | 6 - 7 p.m
Reservations required 269.548.3200

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT
Tim Bourgeois

The new Executive Director of the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES), Tim Bourgeois, credits the great start he received at Kalamazoo Valley important to his career success.

Bourgeois, a 1995 Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement graduate was named to this new position in January after more than 40 years in the business. MCOLES sets the standards for law enforcement in Michigan; it is governed by a 19-person commission made up of law enforcement professionals, prosecutors, state police, and union representatives.

Bourgeois believes that he was chosen for the position because of his lifetime of work, professional reputation, and experience.

"I started attending Valley full time right out of high school. I stopped out for a considerable amount of time to work as a civilian employee and then realized that I needed certification and formal education for what I wanted to accomplish," Bourgeois said. "Kalamazoo Valley has always had an excellent reputation for law enforcement training, I knew that the instructional staff, who were well informed, would help me achieve my goals."

After completing his associate degree, Bourgeois gained a bachelor's degree in Public Service from Sienna Heights University followed by a master's degree in Public Administration from Western Michigan University. He also graduated from the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

"Kalamazoo Valley gave me a good base, a starting point. My education provided a great platform for building important relationships and contacts across the state," he said.

His advice to those considering careers in law enforcement and public safety is encouraging. "The future for law enforcement careers is rapidly expanding," Bourgeois said. "Officers hired in the 1970s and 1980s are retiring, so there will be hundreds of openings across the state in the coming years."

"Kalamazoo Valley has always had an excellent reputation for law enforcement training, I knew that the instructional staff, who were well informed, would help me achieve my goals."

Exciting and meaningful changes in forensic technology, the use of body cameras, mobile video cameras, sophisticated communication tools, and records management are providing new opportunities for law enforcement careers to grow and change making this an exciting and rewarding career path. "There are great jobs in public safety, rewarding and difficult at times, jobs like no others," he said.

His message to parents includes the reminder that the college is a great place, accessible, affordable and students can fit classes into a busy schedule. He said, "Kalamazoo Valley provides a quality education and is doing what it takes to remain relevant."

Bourgeois concluded, "law enforcement agencies turn to Kalamazoo Valley when looking to hire officers. Kalamazoo Valley has excellent placement rates for graduates – among the highest in the state when compared to its peers. I encourage anyone who is interested in the changing world of law enforcement to consider this opportunity, an effective criminal justice system is vital to our governmental system and democracy."

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A POLICE OFFICER
LEARN MORE AT UPCOMING INFORMATIONAL SESSIONS

Police vehicle training

Police agencies across the state report having a difficult time filling vacancies due to the shortage of qualified applicants. Kalamazoo Valley Community College's Law Enforcement Training Center is doing what it can to help fill that void through its 16-week Police Officer Training Academy.

"Kalamazoo Valley's Police Officer Training Academy is recognized as one of the leading police training facilities in the region, consistently graduating high achievers," Director of Kalamazoo Valley's Law Enforcement Training Center Paul Bianco said. "But there is a definite need for more."

Community members interested in a career in law enforcement and learning more about the specifics of the training academy are encouraged to attend one of several upcoming information sessions about the academy. The next Police Officer Training Academy begins August 20 with applications due by May 15.

Information sessions will be held:

Monday, February 26	10 - 11 a.m.
Wednesday, February 28	6 - 7 p.m.
Thursday, March 1	2 - 3 p.m.
Tuesday, March 13	10 - 11 a.m.
Tuesday, March 13	6 - 7 p.m.

Bianco will provide an overview of the intensive training program. He will review information for pre-service graduates, cost and fee structure, academy rules and regulations as well as Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES), curriculum and physical fitness tips.

According to Bianco, graduates from the Police Officer Training Academy enjoy the highest employment rate in the state. A total of 92 percent of alumni are employed in the field, compared to a statewide average of 69 percent.

More than 2,400 men and women have graduated from Kalamazoo Valley's Police Officer Training Academy in the program's 46-year history.

"Anyone thinking about a career in law enforcement is encouraged to come and learn more about our program."

The one-hour sessions will be held at the Law Enforcement Training Center in Kalamazoo Valley's Groves Center located at 7107 Elm Valley Drive.

The information sessions are free and open to the public but registration is required. RSVP to the Police Academy Team at pbianco@kvcc.edu or call 269.353.1261.

Cadets in the Police Officer Training Academy

Cadets in the Police Officer Training Academy

KALAMAZOO VALLEY
COUGAR CAMPS

Summer softball camp

Kalamazoo Valley is gearing up to welcome student athletes for another summer of sports camps. For almost 30 years Cougar Camps have offered summer programs in a variety of sports for both boys and girls.

"All Cougar Camps are designed to develop individual skills while emphasizing the importance of teamwork, self-discipline and sportsmanship," said Russ Panico, athletic director and student relations coordinator at Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

According to Panico, the goal of the summer program is to create a positive camp environment where student athletes are encouraged to reach their full potential through goal setting and skill development.

While building valuable team relationships, campers work with Kalamazoo Valley coaches and college student athletes to develop fundamental competencies. Participants learn about the value of practice, self-discipline and sportsmanship. "Kalamazoo Valley wants each camper to discover that real winning involves a proper attitude - every bit as much as it does effort and ability," Panico said.

"Our coaching staff understands the importance of being a good individual player, but they also know that one player can't do everything by themselves," said Jim Horn, men's basketball coach at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. "In order to be the best player possible, you must be the best teammate possible too. Promoting teamwork is something our camp staff does a great job of while also making sure players are pushing themselves to be the best player they can be."

Registration is now open. Register today at www.kvcccougars.com.

THIS YEAR KALAMAZOO VALLEY HAS EXPANDED ITS OFFERINGS WHICH INCLUDE:

2018 BOYS BASEBALL CAMP
June 18 - 21
Ages 7 - 10 | 9 a.m. - Noon
Ages 11 - 14 | 1 - 4 p.m.
Registration deadline is June 11.
Camp fee is $100 per camper through May 21, then $125.

2018 GIRLS VOLLEYBALL CAMP
June 25 - 28
Grades 6 - 8 | 9 a.m. - Noon
Grades 9 - 12 | 1 - 4 p.m.
Registration deadline is June 18.
Camp fee is $110 per camper through May 28, then $135.

2018 HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL TEAM CAMP
June 28, July 12, 19, 26 | 6 - 8 p.m.
Registration deadline is June 21.
Camp fee is $200 per team.

2018 GIRLS BASKETBALL CAMP
Grades 6 - 12
July 9 - 12 | 8 - 4 p.m.
Registration deadline is July 2. Camp fee is $135 per camper through June 11, then $160.

2018 BOYS BASKETBALL CAMP
Grades 6 - 12
Session 1 | July 16-19 | 9 - 4 p.m.
Registration deadline is July 9. Camp fee is $135 per camper through June 18, then $160.

Session 2 | July 23-26 | 9 - 4 p.m.
Registration deadline is July 16. Camp fee is $135 per camper through June 25, then $160.
Extra camp added due to continual strong demand. No change in structure between Session 1 & 2.

2018 GIRLS SOFTBALL CAMP
July 30 - August 2
Ages 6 - 11 | 9 a.m. - Noon
Ages 12 - 17 | 1 - 4 p.m.
Registration deadline is July 23. Camp fee is $110 per camper through July 2, then $135.

Summer baseball camp

STUDENT SCHOLARS COMPETE IN SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

Kalamazoo Valley Community College will be teeming with about 600 middle and high school students for the Science Olympiad on Monday, March 5.

Participating students are excited about exploring science and deepening their understanding through participation in Science Olympiad. "This event gives younger students a great opportunity to be on a college campus while participating in a positive STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) experience," said Dr. Paige Eagan, dean of instruction, math, sciences and business at Kalamazoo Valley. "I'm a former Science Olympiad participant, and I think it's great to be a part of an organization that supports STEM education. I appreciate being able to host this event."

Science Olympiad was founded in Michigan more than 30 years ago. It has expanded to include nationwide participation. For all but one of its years of existence, Kalamazoo Valley has hosted the Region 13 competition. "We are very thankful for the long-term partnership and dedication Kalamazoo Valley has shown by opening their doors to the students of Cass, St. Joseph, and Van Buren Counties," said Bill Semrau, integrated math and science instructor for the Van Buren Technology Center and Region 13 Science Olympiad co-director. "Our Olympians enjoy the atmosphere of the building. We appreciate having a facility large enough to host 46 separate events all under one roof. Regardless of the weather outside, we have a fantastic day each year at Kalamazoo Valley."

Eagan said it makes perfect sense for the college to serve as a host for the annual science competition.

"Part of our mission as a community college is to be an active member of the community and welcome our citizens in," she said. Science Olympiad takes place during spring break week for Kalamazoo Valley students, but many of them return to campus as volunteers to assist with the event. Staff members also volunteer their time to help.

"You can just feel the energy," Eagan said. "It's a wonderfully collaborative event."

Students choose their own STEM events and activities to research, explore, practice, and investigate as an extra-curricular competition, meeting after school in their local districts for months prior to the competition. "In some cases, Science Olympiad allows students to deepen their commitment to a STEM subject, while it introduces others to a topic that may eventually become their calling," Semrau said.

The top five high school and top five middle school teams to compete at Kalamazoo Valley will advance to the state competition at Michigan State University on April 28, 2018. From there, Michigan's top scoring team will represent the state at the National Tournament at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado, in May 2018.

There are many opportunities to get involved either with events during the day of the competition or by mentoring local teams as they prepare for the tournament. Contact Bill Semrau at bsemrau@vbisd.org for more information or Paige Eagan at peagan@kvcc.edu.

FAFSA
FEDERAL STUDENT AID

DOES YOUR STUDENT NEED HELP PAYING FOR COLLEGE?

Receive hands-on assistance to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20
4:30-6:30 P.M.
ROOM 9130
TEXAS TOWNSHIP CAMPUS

Parents, guardians, and students who need assistance completing the FAFSA should attend. Please bring household 2016 tax information. This workshop is open to all families, not just those with students planning to attend Kalamazoo Valley and is presented by the Financial Aid Office at Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

Ample free parking is available near the workshop, look for the Special Event signs.

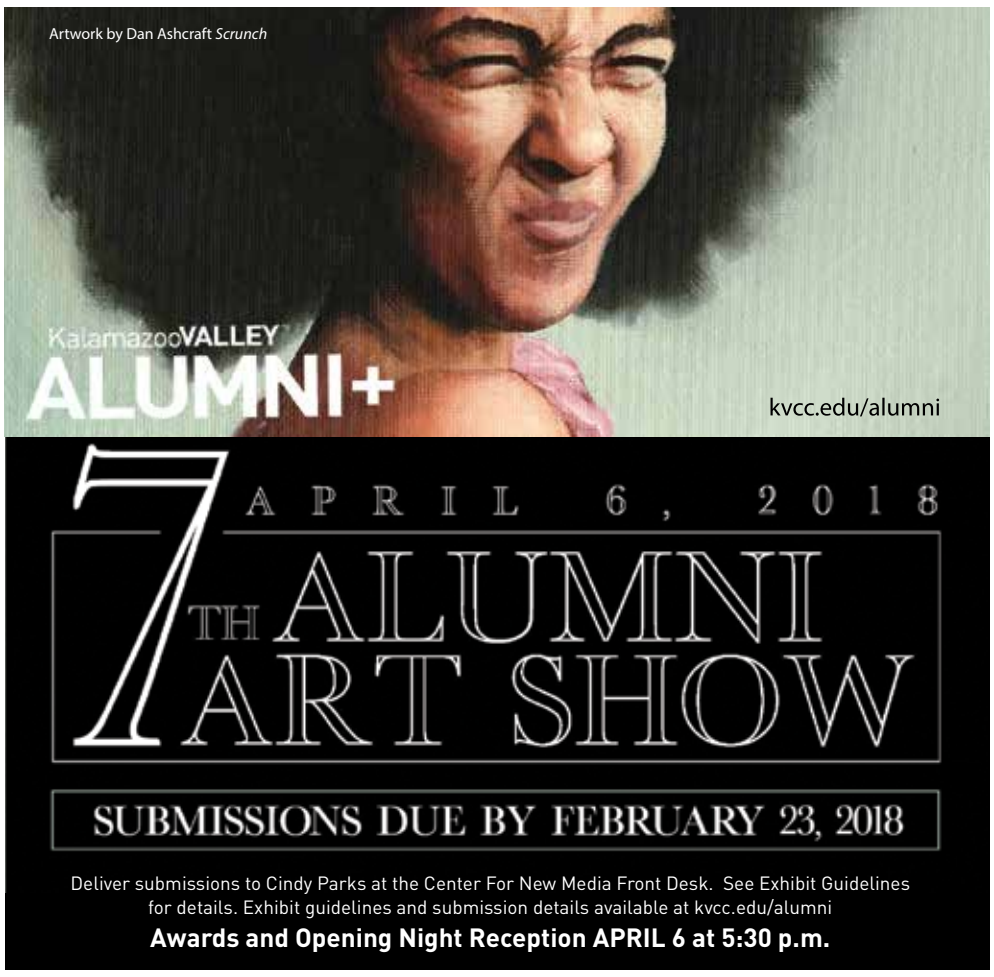
Free and open to the public.

KALAMAZOO CAREERFAIR

Real Careers. Real People.
kvcc.edu/careerfair

WEDNESDAY / MARCH 21, 2018
12–4 p.m. / Kalamazoo Valley Community College

KalamazooVALLEY™


Artwork by Dan Ashcraft *Scrunch*
KalamazooVALLEY
ALUMNI+
kvcc.edu/alumni
APRIL 6, 2018
7TH ALUMNI ART SHOW
SUBMISSIONS DUE BY FEBRUARY 23, 2018
Deliver submissions to Cindy Parks at the Center For New Media Front Desk. See Exhibit Guidelines for details. Exhibit guidelines and submission details available at kvcc.edu/alumni
Awards and Opening Night Reception APRIL 6 at 5:30 p.m.

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KV Focus is a publication of Kalamazoo Valley Community College. Questions about the publication may be directed to the college marketing department at 269.488.4821.

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